

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 3 shows the effect of various AT.sub.4 receptor ligands (SEQ ID NOS: 1-6) on the expression and secretion of matrix metalloproteinases by rabbit cardiac fibroblasts.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Definition: An AT.sub.4 receptor ligand is defined as any molecule that can compete for the binding of .sup.125I-angiotensin IV ( VYIHPF) (SEQ ID NO: 7) to plasma membranes from bovine adrenal glands, which are enriched in AT.sub.4 receptors, with a  $K_{sub.1} < \text{or} = 10 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ M}$ .

Please delete the section of the application entitled "Sequence Listing" immediately after the section of the specification entitled "Abstract" on page 22 and insert the enclosed Sequence Listing therefor.